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AUG - 7 1996

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

July 22, 1996

The Honorable Chairman Reed Hundt  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M. Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The FCC has--or will soon have--before it two extremely important items critical to the deployment of advanced television service: the ATV broadcast transmission standard and channel allocation plan.

ATV Standard: Late last year the commission's Advisory Committee on Advanced Television Service (ACATS) unanimously recommended that the FCC adopt the Grand Alliance system. The cable and computer industries had representation on ACATS, and they did not oppose that recommendation.

Now, however, both industries have done an abrupt about-face and argue the standard should not be adopted. They allege that to do so would "freeze" technological development. In fact, all that would be frozen is the commencement of digital ATV service by America's free, over-the-air broadcasters. Without a standard, stations will not invest the \$8-10 million necessary because they cannot be confident all other stations will use the same system and that all new TV sets will be able to receive their signal in the manner it would be transmitted. Manufacturers will not, therefore, develop the transmission equipment necessary, and consumers will not invest billions of dollars in new receivers when there is no ATV service to receive on their new sets.

Please, adopt the Grand Alliance system as the standard and let us all begin to move forward on an accelerated basis.

Channel Allocations: Providing each broadcaster with an ATV transition channel which comes close to replicating its existing signal and yet does not cause unacceptable interference is a nearly impossible task when using the entire block of spectrum set aside for broadcast television. Attempting to shoehorn virtually all the new channel assignments between channels 7 and 51 will result in substantially smaller ATV coverage areas and substantially increased interference for traditional analog service. This will both harm consumers receiving only analog TV, while simultaneously lessening the demand for new digital TV sets because fewer people will be able to receive the new service. Simply put, it's a lose-lose situation.

We strongly urge the commission to reject this approach and to adopt instead an allocation plan utilizing the full TV spectrum band width.

Thank you for your consideration and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any question.

Sincerely,

Steve Marks  
Regional Director

SM/da



Docket

11.11 87-268

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Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M. Street, NW  
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF BUREAU

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Regional Director

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BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21211  
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FAX 410-235-8450



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The Honorable Norman Sissisky  
U.S. House of Representatives  
237 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Dear Congressman Sissisky

The Federal Communications Commission is considering two critical issues which will determine whether the American people will have access High Definition Television (HDTV) via their local free, over-the-air television stations or will have to rely instead on pay-TV services such as cable and satellites.

The two issues are: (1) the adoption of an American standard for the broadcast transmission of HDTV; and (2) the allocation plan to provide broadcasters the temporary loan of a second channel so they can simultaneously provide HDTV service as well as traditional, analog service (analog TV must continue until enough people have purchased new digital TV sets which are required to receive HDTV).

Enclosed you will find a copy of a letter I sent FCC Chairman Reed Hundt on these two issues. It would be extremely helpful if you would contact the FCC on our behalf and urge that agency to resolve these questions in a way which will allow broadcasters to bring the magic of HDTV and other advanced television services (ATV) to the American people without further delay.

Your assistance is greatly appreciated

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Sanders".

Scott Sanders  
General Manager

SS/lm



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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The Honorable Owen Pickett  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2430 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Congressman Pickett

The Federal Communications Commission is considering two critical issues which will determine whether the American people will have access High Definition Television (HDTV) via their local free, over-the-air television stations or will have to rely instead on pay-TV services such as cable and satellites.

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Your assistance is greatly appreciated

Sincerely,

Scott Sanders  
General Manager

SS/lm



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AUG - 7 1996

July 23 1996

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The Honorable Robert Scott  
U.S. House of Representatives  
501 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Congressman Scott:

The Federal Communications Commission is considering two critical issues which will determine whether the American people will have access High Definition Television (HDTV) via their local free, over-the-air television stations or will have to rely instead on pay-TV services such as cable and satellites.

The two issues are: (1) the adoption of an American standard for the broadcast transmission of HDTV; and (2) the allocation plan to provide broadcasters the temporary loan of a second channel so they can simultaneously provide HDTV service as well as traditional, analog service (analog TV must continue until enough people have purchased new digital TV sets which are required to receive HDTV)

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Your assistance is greatly appreciated

Sincerely,

Scott Sanders  
General Manager

SS/lm